

GAME STATION

STATION FOCUS

The Hebrew people gave generously of their possessions, skills, and time to build the Tabernacle, a sacred place to worship God. Today, we can use our possessions, skills, and time for the church, the special place where we worship God.

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 25-40,
focusing on Exodus 25:1-9;
36:1-2; 40:34

STATION OBJECTIVES

Children will have opportunities to

- * learn about the Tabernacle, a large moveable tent built as a special place to worship God;
- * experience the sanctuary of their church as a special place to worship God.

STATION SETUP

Display a picture, poster, or wall chart of the Tabernacle.

- Pictures are available in *What's What in the Bible* by Derek Williams (page 24) or on page 13 of this unit.
- You can purchase a "Tabernacle in the Wilderness" poster at www.rockofisrael.org for \$20.00. Search the online store for TTTW.
- You can find a laminated wall chart at www.rose-publishing.com for \$13.99. Search by Product Code for 551L.

Be sure that each leader and shepherd has a copy of the Main Idea, Objectives, Bible Story, Bible Background, Check Your Facts, About the Children, Shepherd Tips, and Mission Project (pages 3-7). These photocopies may have been handed out at the Staff Meeting.

Resources

pages 3-7 and 13
picture, poster, or
wall chart of the
Tabernacle

Supplies

poster-mounting
supplies

Supplies

large, heavy piece of fabric or a small tent

WANT TO DO MORE?

Make the entrance to your space look like a tent. Pitch a small tent in front of the door, or hang fabric from the doorway in the manner of a tent flap so that the children can enjoy the fun of entering a tent as they enter the room.

SAFETY CHECK

- The church should be a place of security—a place where children can count on things and people being reliable.
- Each shepherd should know the whereabouts of every child in his or her group and where to reach a parent in case of an emergency.
- Make sure the children have plenty of space to play games. Remove any obstacles.
- Make sure children follow instructions in a safe manner. Invite extra adult help, if needed, for the number of children in this station.
- Monitor the difference between high energy levels and rowdiness.

GAMES

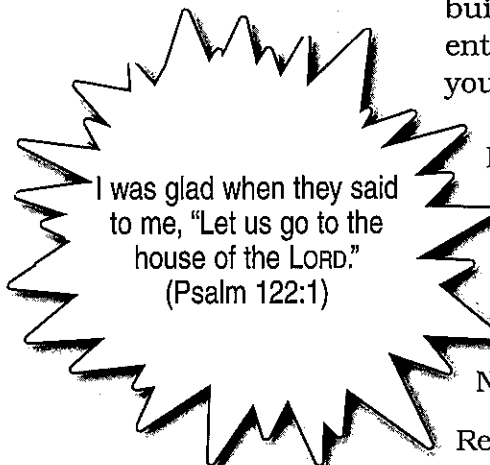
Resources

The Children's Bible in 365 Stories by Mary Batchelor

BIBLE STORY (5–10 minutes)

Ask the children to close their eyes. Ask them to remain silent as you lead them through this activity.

Say: I want you to imagine you are on your way to church. Are you walking? in a car? on a bike? or coming some other way? What do you see first? Perhaps, you see the steeple or the front of the building. What do the church grounds look like? Imagine you are entering the building. What do you see first? Is there something you are particularly glad to see?



I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
(Psalm 122:1)

Now I want you to imagine that you are one of the Israelites. Your people have escaped from slavery in Egypt. You are camped in the desert. Can you see the tents on the dry, flat earth? Look all around you. There is no place set aside to worship God.

Now open your eyes.

Read story 66, "God's Special Tent," from *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories* (page 82).

Say: When God's people were in the wilderness, God gave them directions to build the Tabernacle. Today we are going to learn about another place to worship God—our church.

ACTIVITY OPTIONS

(45-50 minutes)

Choose from the following activities those that are appropriate for the age level of the children as your time, space, and resources allow.

For All Ages

Touch and See the Sanctuary

Prepare

Visit your sanctuary. Sit quietly for a few minutes, looking at everything around you. Pick out six to eight items, areas, or activities that happen in the sanctuary that you think will be interesting to the children (for example, pulpit, chancel, liturgical dance). Recruit one person connected with each of these. Ask each of these people to talk briefly (2-3 minutes) to the children and to provide a hands-on experience for them (for example, ring a hand bell, speak from the pulpit, sing together in the choir loft).

With the Children

Say: When God's people were in the Tabernacle, they worshiped God. When we are in our sanctuary, we worship God. Today we are going to visit the sanctuary and learn about some of the ways we worship God there.

Take the group to the sanctuary to meet with your guests. If your group is large, divide into smaller groups.

When the tour is over, have the group sit down in the pews.

Ask: What did you like best about our tour? Did you see something you have never seen before?

What in our sanctuary is the same as the Tabernacle? What is different?

If you could make a change in our sanctuary or worship service to help you worship better, what would it be?

Give each child paper and colored pencils. Ask them to draw pictures of themselves at their favorite part of the sanctuary or doing their favorite activity in worship.

Note

Resources and websites are constantly changing. Check www.powerxpress.com for updates that may help you in planning.

Resources

guests to talk about elements of the sanctuary and of worship

Supplies

drawing paper
colored pencils



Resources

guest to guide a tour of the sanctuary

Supplies

photographs of places and objects in the sanctuary

card stock

markers

laminating machine

or clear contact

paper

masking tape

optional: video

camera and

equipment to view

the video

For All Ages

Sanctuary Tour

Prepare

Recruit someone to take the children on a tour of the sanctuary. Together, decide what parts of the space and what furnishings will be on the tour. Take pictures of all of them. Mount each picture on a piece of card stock. Include the name of the place or object. Laminate the card or cover it with clear contact paper. Use masking tape to create a floor plan of your sanctuary on the floor of your station area.

Note: If you will not have access to the sanctuary, video the tour ahead of time.

With the Children

Say: The Israelites worshiped God in the Tabernacle. We worship God in our sanctuary. Today we are going to tour our sanctuary.

Go to the sanctuary. Introduce your tour guide, and go on the tour.

When you return to your class space, point out the floor plan of the sanctuary that you have created on the floor. Work together to identify the parts of the sanctuary on the floor plan. Make sure all the children understand what they are seeing.

Now, give each child one of the photo cards. Ask each child to stand on the floor plan at the place where the object on his or her card belongs. Encourage the children to work together to make sure everyone can stand where they need to and to enjoy the crowding.

Ask each child what picture is on his or her card. Where is that in the sanctuary? What is it used for? What happens there?

Have the children lay their pictures where they belong on the floor plan and step outside the floor plan to stand in a circle around it.

Ask: What do you like best about worship?

Say: Quietly move to stand on that spot on the floor plan. If there are several of you who need to stand in the same area, help one another find a way to stand near that area.

When everyone has found his or her favorite spot, close the activity with a short prayer thanking God for the sanctuary and asking God to always be near when you worship—just like God was with the people in the wilderness when they built the Tabernacle as a place to worship God.



For Younger Children

Sanctuary Concentration

Prepare

Take pictures of various spaces, furnishings, and objects in your sanctuary. Mount each picture on a piece of card stock. Include the name of the place or object. Laminate the card or cover it with clear contact paper. Make multiple sets of cards so that each group of 2–3 children can have two of each picture.

With the Children

Hold up one card at a time to show an area or object from your sanctuary. Help the children identify the place or object that is pictured.

Then, divide the children into groups of 2–3. Give each group a set of cards, and help them arrange the cards face-down in rows to create a Concentration gameboard.

Let the children play Sanctuary Concentration.

Variation for Older Children: When the children turn over a card, they must read the name of the place or object pictured.

For Younger Children

Build a Verse

Prepare

Print each of the words of Psalm 122:1 in large letters on a separate sheet of construction paper: *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"*

With the Children

Give each child a sheet of paper with one of the words of the Bible verse written on it. Hand out all the sheets—some children may have two or three.

Have the children line up in order of their words. Then say the verse with each child saying the word on his or her paper. Repeat the verse several times, increasing speed each time.

Finally, say the verse together. Then, have the children lay their words face-down on the floor in front of them, and have the group say the verse together without looking at the words.

Supplies

photographs of places and objects in your sanctuary, at least 2 of each
card stock
markers
laminating machine or clear contact paper

Talk Tip

Ask each child to pick the card that shows his or her favorite place or object in the sanctuary. Ask, "What do you like about it? How does it help you worship?"

Supplies

construction paper
markers

Talk Tip

What makes you glad to come to church? What makes it difficult for you to come to church? What could change at the church to make it easier for you to enjoy coming to church?

For Older Children

Tabernacle/Sanctuary

Resources

Bibles
Bible reference cards
(page 54)
picture or poster of
the Tabernacle (see
Station Setup)

Supplies

pencils
optional: card stock,
scissors, and basket

Prepare

Make enough copies of the Bible reference cards (page 54) so that each group of three children can have a copy. Make one extra copy for yourself.

Use your copy of the Bible reference cards to guide you as you read each of the Bible references. Make a list of what things in your sanctuary, if anything, would be an equivalent.

With the Children

Divide the children into groups of three. Give each group a copy of the Bible reference cards (page 54), a Bible, and pencils.

Say: When I say “Go,” look up the Bible references on your sheet, one at a time. Each reference is to something related to the Tabernacle. Think of something in our sanctuary that is like that thing and write it in the space below the Bible reference on your sheet.

Show the children a picture or poster of the Tabernacle to which they may refer in order to help them see the things that are described in the Bible verses.

Say: Some things in the Tabernacle will not have an equivalent in our sanctuary. If there is no equivalent, make a note of that in the space below the Bible reference.

When all the teams have finished, help them compare their answers. Let the children decide, with help from you, if each answer is acceptable. If you hear answers that you had not thought of, encourage the children to tell the group how the things they have listed are like the things from the Tabernacle.

Option: Copy the Bible reference cards (page 54) onto card stock. Cut the cards apart and put them in a basket. To start the game, give each team a card. After the team names an equivalent, they will send a runner to get another card.

When all the cards have been chosen, discuss what the children have learned.

- What items in the Tabernacle were similar to items in our sanctuary?
- What items in the Tabernacle were not similar to anything in our sanctuary?
- What in our sanctuary was not in the Tabernacle?

Talk Tip

If you could see one thing in the Tabernacle, what thing would you like to see? If you could show the Israelites one thing in our sanctuary, what would you show them?



For Older Children

So Many Sanctuaries!

Prepare

Make enough copies of "Worship in Bible Times" chart (page 55) so that each group of two to three children can have a copy. Make one extra copy for yourself.

Use your copy of the chart as you prepare to help the children when they work with the chart.

With the Children

Ask: How many different places can you name that you have worshiped? *(The list may include such places as churches of friends and family, outdoor settings, church camps, and so forth.)*

Say: We have worshiped in many different places! God's people have always worshiped in many places. We are going to see some of the places where people worshiped God in Bible times.

Divide children into groups of two or three. Give each group a copy of the "Worship in Bible Times" chart (page 55), a Bible, and pencils.

Have the children look up each Bible reference and answer the questions on the chart.

Say: You may not have enough information to fill in every blank, but that is all right.

When the groups have finished their work, bring everyone back together to go through the worksheet and talk about what they have learned.

Ask: In what places did people worship in Bible times?

Option: Instead of having each group do the entire worksheet, divide it among the groups so that each group looks up 2 to 4 references.

Resources

Bibles
"Worship in Bible Times" chart (page 55)

Supplies

pencils

Talk Tip

Throughout human history, people have worshiped God in many places. Talk with the children about why worship is important.

Resources

picture or poster of the Tabernacle (see Station Setup)

Supplies

drawing paper
markers
tape

GRADES

CLOSING (5 minutes)

Gather the children by a picture or poster of the Tabernacle. Ask each child to make a sketch of your church.

Divide the group in half. As you mount each sketch on the wall, half of the group will say, "I was glad when they said unto me." The rest of the group will continue, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Close With Prayer: God, the ancient Israelites were glad to have the Tabernacle, a special place where they could worship you. We are glad that we can come to our church to worship you. Amen.



Exodus 25:10-22	Exodus 25:23-30	Exodus 25:31-40
Exodus 26:1-14	Exodus 26:15-30	Exodus 26:31-33
Exodus 27:1-8	Exodus 27:9-15	Exodus 28:1-5
Exodus 30:1-8	Exodus 30:17-21	

Worship in Bible Times

Bible Reference	Who Worshiped?	Where Did They Worship?	Why Did They Worship?
Genesis 8:15-22			
Genesis 12:4-7			
Genesis 28:10-22			
1 Samuel 1:3			
1 Kings 8:62-66			
Matthew 2:9-12			
Luke 1:5-10			
Luke 4:16-20			
Acts 12:5, 11-12			

GRILLED

Notes



GAMES

